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## A Message from Dean Aviva Abramovsky

Aviva Abramovsky

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## A MESSAGE FROM DEAN AVIVA ABRAMOVSKY



**Dean Aviva Abramovsky with Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States at Kleinhans Music Hall in downtown Buffalo.**

Dear Friends,

I am excited to share this issue of *UB Law Forum* focused on innovation, the future of legal education and the practice of law, and our unprecedented start to the academic year.

Some might say that innovation is an overused term today, applied broadly to describe any novel effort or idea. Innovation requires far more than the implementation of a new idea. Innovation is the development of that idea in a way that moves us forward, helps us fulfill our purpose, and provides value to society. In the legal world, innovation expands our practice, makes us stronger advocates and leaders, and helps us achieve justice for our clients.

That impact can be seen in the profiles of the creative and inventive alumni highlighted in this issue (pp. 10-15). Our graduates are responding to a changing legal landscape and are addressing challenging societal issues and needs. In the process, they are redefining and expanding what it means to be a lawyer.

Our collaborations with you and with the University have fueled our commitment to innovation at the law school. Together, we are providing our students with new opportunities to work with local startup technology companies (pp. 4-5) and to establish a foothold in the growing sports law industry (pp. 6-7). We have reaffirmed our commitment to our signature programs that expand career possibilities and produce results, including our New York City Program on Finance & Law (pp. 8-9), our award-winning Discover Law diversity pipeline program (p. 21), and our outstanding Advocacy Institute (pp. 24-25).

Our new academic year began with its own outstanding start. It was our honor to host U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on our first full day of classes (pp. 16-17). An icon and an innovator, her historic visit to Buffalo and to our law school reminded each one of us that a commitment to progress can produce extraordinary results.

Thank you all for sharing that commitment with your law school.

With gratitude,

Aviva Abramovsky